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CIUDADES PARALELAS PARALLEL CITIES



A project curated by
Lola Arias and Stefan Kaegi

11 to 18 December 2012



INTRODUCTION

Hotel rooms, shopping centres, factories... these are functional places, not usually thought of as interesting to the outside eye. But without them life in the city would be uninhabitable. Their ubiquitous, parallel existences the world over mean these places are instantly recognisable, each modelled on similar rules but displaying a local face.

For "Ciudades Paralelas", Lola Arias and Stefan Kaegi have invited several artists to devise interventions into these kinds of spaces. Six artists have each chosen a location in the city as observation stations for urban phenomena. Some of them chose to work with radio receivers or headphones, with people in their workspaces.

The pieces vary in form: You can listen to some of them, others you can read or touch. Some are for a single, others for more spectators. The performers include a singer, writers, passers-by or even the audience themselves.

Gerardo Naumann's factory workers take viewers on a subjective journey along the production line at their place of work.

Via headphones, Ant Hampton and Tim Etchells whisper to us over the silence of a library reading-room.

Mariano Pensotti turns four authors into literary surveillance cameras who describe scenes in a railway station as they happen. The viewers read the texts as a novel unfolding live on large screens over the heads of its real-life figures.

HELLO KOLKATA MEET KOLKATA

The Ligna activists choreograph their listeners in a shopping mall, turning their movements into a conspiratorial radio ballet.

Lola Arias presents hotel rooms haunted by the stories of the cleaning staff— ghosts who appear when nobody else is there and clean up after the guest has left.

And, late in the evening, Stefan Kaegi invites you to a roof with a view over the city to review all these experiences with a blind artist. Rewinding the experiences from her perspective you find yourself wondering what you will remember of the day.

The projects make theatre out of public spaces used every day, and seduce the viewers into staying long enough for their perception to change. They invite you to subjectively experience places built for anonymous crowds.

“Ciudades Paralelas” offers six perspectives on one city. A festival that doesn’t transport stage sets or companies of actors but ideas.

www.ciudadesparalelas.com

Ciudades Paralelas/ Parallel Cities Kolkata is presented by Goethe Institut Max Mueller Bhavan India and Pro Helvetia India. This portable festival was originally developed as a coproduction between HAU Berlin and Schauspielhaus Zürich, in collaboration with Goethe-Institut Warsaw, Teatr Nowy and the foundation of Teatr Nowy. Commissioned by Kulturstiftung des Bundes, the Swiss Arts Council, Pro Helvetia and Goethe Institut Buenos Aires.

Ciudades Paralelas will be presented in New Delhi in January 2013 after Kolkata

I am delighted that the MMB Kolkata and the MMB New Delhi, in partnership with the Swiss foundation, Pro Helvetia, are able to bring “Ciudades Paralelas” to the two metropolises, New Delhi and Kolkata. As the “Germany in India” festival approaches its end, a special highlight for Kolkata is this festival in which esteemed international artists from Germany, Switzerland, Argentina and the United Kingdom, transform six different locations in the city. Lola Arias, an acclaimed theatre director from Buenos Aires and Stefan Kaegi (Berlin) developed this unique project, which premiered in September 2010 in Berlin at Hebbel am Ufer theatre (HAU). Stefan Kaegi, one of the most prominent international reformers and inventors of new formats of theatre, is revisiting the city. During the years 2003-2005, MMB Kolkata and Stefan Kaegi, in collaboration with HAU Berlin, had already produced the first ever mobile phone theatre, “Call Cutta”. Here too, as in “Parallel Cities”, the city is transformed into a stage at various locations, new formats of theatre work are tried out, and the visitor is not merely a spectator but gets actively involved as a performer himself. In September 2010, having attended the premiere of Ciudades Paralelas in Berlin, I became so enthused by the concept that I initiated this festival the following year, in Warsaw. Although the settings, like hotels or libraries or factories exist everywhere, the “realization” is different in each city; the varied citizens/artists involved, combined with distinct cultural manifestations, render the “parallel city” a unique face. How global are our cities really, is one of the many questions that comes to our minds. But it is also the new, often unperceived glance at your own city, viewing unknown realities, people enriching your life in various ways that becomes apparent. Time and again, it is an adventure to wander through the “parallel city”, especially in Kolkata.

Dr. Martin Wälde

Director

Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata

■■■■ CIUDADES PARALELAS ■■■■

BOOKING INFORMATION

Bookings at

Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata
8 Ballygunge Circular Road, Kolkata 700019
From 3 December – 17 December 2012

Call to register

+91 85828 35400 | +91 85828 35362

Website

www.goethe.de/kolkata | www.ciudadesparalelas.com

PROJECTS



STATION

SOMETIMES I THINK I CAN SEE YOU



A metro rail station. Four authors observe the space from various perspectives. Typing into their laptops, they write live on what they see in the railway station and other things, too: private observations, things they make up, or historical information. Every word they type is projected onto a large screen, a separate one for each author.

Like surveillance cameras recording anonymous individuals' every movement in the station, each writer transforms the spontaneous progress through a public space into narratives conveying what is going on — or might be going on — inside people's heads in parallel with the bustling life of the station.

The viewers and chance passers-by become part of their narrative. One glance at the screen reveals that they have become figures in the process of being invented. Over the space and the time they share with the authors, the viewers are able to influence the fictionalization, and become part of a collective story.

Artist

Mariano Pensotti, Buenos Aires



Mariano Pensotti (1973) studied film, visual arts and theatre.

His works tend to differ from each other in terms of format but they all have one constant factor: his plays are a multitude of stories in which the tension between reality and fiction is present.

"La Marea" ("The Tide", 2005/2010) was a project re-created all over the world with different performers and spaces: In a street, various local actors play everyday scenes in a café, a bookshop or on a balcony. Audiences watch the scenes as they read the characters' thoughts, written and projected onto them as subtitles.

Opening in Buenos Aires, Pensotti's plays are usually performed in numerous theatres and festivals abroad, including the Kunstenfestival in Brussels, HAU Berlin, Dublin Festival, Automne Normandie, Carrefour de Quebec, Festival TransAmériques, Steirischer Herbst Graz, Metropolis Copenhagen, Norwich & Norfolk Festival, Homo Novus Riga and Sleep Slope Studio Yokohama.

www.marianopensotti.com



Time slots during the day

2:00 pm to 4:30 pm

8:00 pm to 10:30 pm

Duration of the shows

Two hours & thirty minutes each

Venue

Park Street Metro Station

Park Street Metro Station lies in the heart of Kolkata, right next to Park Street itself. Of all the stations in the metro line this is the place where most of the travelers, business people, shoppers, students and working people step in and out to leave or to reach one of the main shopping roads in Kolkata.

FACTORY LA FABRICÀ



In the old days, cities were built around factories. Today, the factories are built far outside the city boundaries. The laws of modern labor were once dictated by the factory; now the laws of the market stipulate the products as well as the production rates and values.

Factories are places of encounter between the social classes, from cleaning staff over assembly line workers to quality managers and sales directors up to the factory owner. Each one has an individual relationship to their work and to the factory. They are bound together by rules and contracts. The rules define who does what, the movements of people, the course of the working day.

The audience travels by coach to the fringes of the city, where they look at a factory that might be a stage set. Walking along the assembly line, they listen to the voices of staff in various departments, who stop work for a moment in order to give an account of their day-to-day experiences. The participants go on a factory excursion, but instead of learning how things are made they embark on a subjective journey into the minds of the workers...

Artist

Gerardo Naumann,
Buenos Aires



In Gerardo Naumann's plays human beings do not only exist for the play itself but they serve other purposes as well.

In 'Emily' for example, set in a furnishing shop, the actors retell parts of a language book. The audience meanwhile does not only follow an 'abstract' piece in an 'ordinary' surrounding but can pick up English language or pick out a new kitchen interior for their home. Naumann tries to combine both abstract and ordinary and gives the audience and the actors various opportunities of interpretation.

The script of 'Unaobraútil / A helpful play' is based on the diary of a house maid, once found by Naumann, lying in the garbage out on the streets. The artist uses the device of a play to find out on stage, what would be the best way to make a film out of the diary. He is not only actor but also researcher at the same time.

In another work of his, called 'La Fábrica/ The factory' the audience enters a factory in order to have a guided tour. Inside the visitors meet 6 employees telling the stories of their working and private life while continuously working on the assembly line. In that sense employees and visitors are part of both economy and the arts.

'Die Vorstellung/ The Performance' is set in the backstage area of a theater. The people who are usually working backstage for other plays now act out their own performances at their working places. Here again the actors serve not only one purpose but two. In that way the audience gets to think of what is real and what is not, is there a parallel world existing other than the visible one? (can delete that, just wanted to connect his work to the thought of parallel cities)

In collaboration with Nele Wohlatz Gerardo Naumann produced 'Novios del Campo / Country- Couples', which is a documentary and a feature length film called 'Aurora'. In Aurora Naumann is impersonated by a young Theology- Student, to whom he offered a scholarship in return.

Naumann himself received scholarships by the Antorchas, the Typa and the Poa Foundation. He was furthermore invited as a guest to the Theater Festival Forum and acted as a guest lecturer at the Akademi for Scenekunst in Norway. He also taught Directing at the Hochschule für Gestaltung HFG in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Gerardo Naumann's work has been presented in Argentina, Portugal, Germany, Poland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Singapore and Switzerland.



Time slots during the day

3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Duration of the show

One and a half hour

Duration of journey

Two hours

(From and back to Max Mueller Bhavan)

Total duration

Three and a half hours

Meeting point

Max Mueller Bhavan

8 Ballygunge Circular Road, Kol - 19

Bus transport to venue leaves one hour before show time.

Please arrive 30 minutes before departure.

Venue

Monginis Bakery Kolkata

Monginis describes itself as one of the largest players in the cake market in India. Apart from other big cities like Mumbai or Kairo in Egypt, it has a factory in Kolkata, too. The company's product can be found in shops all around Kolkata but the factory itself lies far from the city center, in a parallel world.

SHOPPING CENTRE THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL OF SHOPPING CENTERS



The shopping mall is a utopian place. An entire city is assembled in ideal-typical form below a glass roof under which time would appear to be frozen. Tropical plants create a paradise-like atmosphere. The wares displayed in shop windows patiently await their future owners. Apparently, they possess no more life of their own than the mall as such. Architecture and merchandise alike seem mute. And yet, they do possess a voice. The stories they could tell if they wanted to! The floor-tiles, for instance, that remember the footsteps of every shopper who walked across them without even noticing what was under their feet. And the consumer goods on sale have first-hand knowledge of people's futile attempts to find happiness in them.

The Hamburg-and-Berlin based activists LIGNA have been developing radio-ballets as interactive forms of radio-plays – in which audiences almost unconsciously turn into subversive crowds – in festivals around the world. For Ciudades Paralelas they focus on the shopping mall as a form of parallel city.

Artist LIGNA, Hamburg and Berlin



LIGNA has existed since 1997. The group consists of the media and performance artists Ole Frahm, Michael Hueners and Torsten Michaelsen, who in the early 1990s began working at the Freies Sender Kombinat (FSK), a public non-profit radio station in Hamburg. They produce the bi-weekly program LIGNA's Music Box, which asks the listeners to call in and play their favorite songs over the telephone.

All works by LIGNA regard their audience as a collective of producers. Such temporary associations can produce unforeseeable, uncontrollable effects that challenge the order of a space.

One LIGNA model of media usage is the Radio Ballet (invented in 2002), which provides radio listeners with a choreography of excluded and forbidden gestures in formerly public, now controlled, spaces.

www.ligna.blogspot.com



Time slot during the day

6.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Duration per show

Sixty minutes

Meeting point

Inside the mall next to the main entrance
*Please arrive 30 minutes before schedule time.
Please carry your voter id card, passport or driving license for security reasons.*

Venue

South City Mall Kolkata

South City Mall, being one of the projects of South City Projects (Kolkata) Ltd., is a landmark in Kolkata since 2009 and described as the largest shopping mall in South- East Asia. It is a destination as well for shoppers as for people seeking amusement. For the participants of LIGNAs installation, it will be the best place to get lost and find themselves again, guided by an invisible hand in a theater performance, taking place in a "perfect" parallel city.

LIBRARY THE QUIET VOLUME



The Quiet Volume is a whispered, self-generated and 'automatic' performance for two at a time, exploiting the particular tension common to any library worldwide; a combination of silence and concentration within which different peoples' experiences of reading unfold.

Two audience members / participants sit side-by-side. Taking cues from words both written and whispered they find themselves burrowing an unlikely path through a pile of books. The piece exposes the strange magic at the heart of the reading experience, allowing aspects of it we think of as deeply internal to lean out into the surrounding space, and to leak from one reader's sphere into another's.

Artist

Ant Hampton, London &
Tim Etchells, Sheffield/ New York



Ant Hampton (1975) is a performance maker, writer and director. He founded Rotozaza (1998 – 2008), a project which has explored the use of instructions given to unrehearsed “guest” performers, both on stage and, more recently, within more intimate structures sustained and played-out by the audience themselves (Autoteatro). Since 2008 he has initiated a number of collaborations: True Riches, with Tim Etchells; GuruGuru, with Joji Koyama and Sam Britton; The Bench, with Glen Neath. He continues an ongoing exploration of “live portraiture” with Greg McLaren as “The Other People” (La Otra Gente): structured encounters with people from non-theatrical milieu. He was chief dramaturge for “Projected Scenarios” at Manifesta 7 European Biennial for Contemporary Art, Italy. He has contributed to projects by Jérôme Bel and Forced Entertainment.

www.anthampton.com

Tim Etchells (1962) is an artist and a writer based in the UK. He has worked in a wide variety of contexts and is the artistic director of the world-renowned performance group Forced Entertainment. His work spans performance, video, photography, text projects, installation and fiction. He is the author of *Certain Fragments* (Routledge, 1999) and published his first novel *The Broken World* with Heinemann in 2008. He has exhibited widely in venues including MACBA, Barcelona (2009), Göteborg Biennial (2009), Art Sheffield (2008), Manifesta 7 (2008). He is currently *Legacy: Thinker in Residence* (2009–2010) at Tate Research and LADA in London.

www.timetchells.com | www.forcedentertainment.com



Time slot of the day

11.00 am to 7.00 pm
every 20 minutes, last show 6.00pm

Duration per show

Sixty minutes

Meeting Point

Ramakrishna Mission Library Foyer
Please arrive 15 minutes before schedule time.

Venue

Ramakrishna Mission Library

The RAMAKRISHNA MISSION INSTITUTE OF CULTURE, a branch of the Ramakrishna Mission, started functioning in 1938. It is an internationally reputed spiritual, educational and cultural centre. The institute houses one of the finest libraries in the city with the perfect atmosphere for readers to explore the parallel world of the books surrounding them.

HOTEL ROOM SERVICE



Hotels are the same the world over. Be it Buenos Aires, Berlin or Kolkatta after going through the glass door that separates the lobby from the city you encounter the same functional music, signs in English, and smiling people in uniform. We enter a new country: Taj Belngal-Land. At the reception we request a key to an apartment that will be a substitute for our home.

We spend the night in anonymous rooms where anonymous beings make our beds, clean our baths, change our sheets. We are foreigners in the hands of other foreigners who look after us.

Who are these ghosts who come into our room when we're not there? Where do they come from? What have they experienced, what do they know about other people's lives? How many naked bodies, flooded bathrooms, disheveled beds, sleeping people, strange clothes and smells do they encounter in the course of one day?

"Room service" is an installation composed of biographies. The audience spends one hour walking through the five rooms, where they discover portraits of the cleaning staff: films, original voice recordings and photographs that bring to light something of the invisible persons who clean up after others.

Artist Lola Arias, Buenos Aires



Lola Arias (1976, Buenos Aires) is a writer, director, performer and songwriter. She founded the interdisciplinary artists' collective, with which she develops theatre, literature, music and art projects. Her productions play with the overlap zones between reality and fiction. Centre stage in "Striptease" is occupied by a baby, while its parents fight out a duel by telephone. In "El amor es un francotirador", the performers relate true and fictional love stories while a rock band plays live. In "Mi vida después", six actors reconstruct their parents' youth in 1970's Argentina by means of photos, letters, cassettes and old clothes.

Arias works with actors, non-actors, musicians, dancers, children, babies, and animals. Her most recent projects with Stefan Kaegi, with whom she began collaborating in 2006, were "SOKO São Paulo" involving Brazilian police officers, and "Airport Kids" featuring global nomads aged between 7 and 13.

Her work was presented in many venues and international festivals as HAU Berlin, Steirischer Herbst Festival Graz, Alcantara Festival Lisbon, Radicales Festival Barcelona and many others.

www.lolaarias.com.ar

In collaboration with Mikko Gaestel (1982, Hamburg). Visual artist. He does film, video-installations and experiments with new forms of documentary.

www.mikkogaestel.com



Time slots of the day

12 noon to 8.00 pm

Duration per show

Seventy minutes
Starting every 10 minutes.
One person at the time.

Meeting point

Reception Foyer
Please arrive 30 minutes before schedule time.

Venue

Taj Bengal

Taj Bengal is one of the most well-known luxury hotels in Kolkata. Located in the city's greenest precinct, it is within walking distance of the Victoria Memorial, Royal Calcutta Race Course, Horticulture Gardens, National Library and the Zoological Gardens.

ROOF REVIEW



On winter nights roofs become living spaces. Halfway between the distant street noise and the thick, urban-glow above, the audience meets somebody who spent her day in the city without seeing. The blind musician, Bulbuli Ghosh, orients herself with the help of smells, the sounds of cars and the pavement's edge. At this point, what the audience has seen during the festival is reviewed and mapped onto the acoustic image of an invisible city. What remains in your memory?

Artist Stefan Kaegi



Stefan Kaegi (1972) produces with different collaborators documentary theatre, radio plays, and productions in urban spaces. Often featuring "experts in reality" rather than actors, the pieces are distilled from the original context in the course of research, casting and intervention. Kaegi's model railway world "Mnemopark" was produced at a scale of 1:87 as a live film set at Theater Basel, and shown in over thirty cities between Tokyo and Montreal. Since 2006 Kaegi has been touring with two Bulgarian drivers and a truck, converted into a mobile auditorium ("Cargo Sofia"). In 2009, he put 10,000 locusts on the stage of the Schauspielhaus in Zurich, and for "Radio Muezzin" worked with four Egyptian muezzins.

Together with Helgard Haug and Daniel Wetzler, Stefan Kaegi works under the label "Rimini Protokoll". The group is artist-in-residence at HAU, Berlin, since 2004, and received the "New Realities in Theatre" prize in 2008.

Kaegi received the Routes Award of the European Cultural Foundation in 2010.

www.rimini-protokoll.de



Time slots of the day

1st show from 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm
2nd show from 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm
3rd show from 9.00 pm - 10.00 pm

Duration per show

Sixty minutes

Meeting point

Nineteenth floor, Everest House
46C, Jawaharlal Nehru Rd, Elgin, Kol - 71
Please arrive 15 minutes before schedule time.

Venue

Everest House, Kolkata

The tallest building on Chowringhee Road is packed with offices, but parallelly, on top of the building is the terrace which overlooks the city. The way to the terrace seems like an endless journey through concrete walls but once the visitor reaches the terrace Kolkata unfolds below him.

SCHEDULE

Dates: From 11 December
to 18 December 2012 daily

Project	Time	Venue	Duration
Station Mariano Pensotti	1st show from 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm 2nd show from 8.00 pm to 10.30pm	Park Street Metro Station Jawaharlal Nehru Road	Two hours and thirteen minutes
Factory Gerardo Naumann	1st show departs from Max Mueller Bhavan at 2.30 pm 2nd show departs Max Mueller Bhavan at 3.30 pm Please arrive 30 minutes before departure.	Monginis Factory, Dhulagarh 19, Abul Kalam Azad Road, Howrah - 711101 Meeting Point at Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata 8 Ballygunge Circular Road.	Three hours and thirty minutes (including bus journey)
Shopping Centre LIGNA	6.00 pm - 7.00 pm Please arrive 30 minutes before schedule time.	South City Mall 375, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata - 700 068 Meeting point Inside the mall next to the main entrance	60 mins

- Park Street Metro Station
- Monginis Factory
Dhulagarh
- South City Mall
Prince Anwar Shah Rd
- Ramakrishna Mission Cultural Intitute
Golpark
- Taj Bengal Hotel
Alipore
- Everest House Kolkata
J L Nehru Road
- Festival Centre:
Goethe-Institut Max Mueller Bhavan
Ballygunge Circular Rd



SCHEDULE

Dates: From 11 December
to 18 December 2012 daily

Project	Time	Venue	Duration
Library Ant Hampton / Tim Etchells	11.00 am - 7.00 pm Please arrive 15 minutes before schedule time.	Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture Golpark, Kolkata 700029	60 mins Every 20 mins from 10.00 am onwards
Hotel Lola Arias	12 noon - 8.00 pm Please arrive 30 minutes before schedule time.	Taj Bengal 34B, Belvedere Road Alipore - 700 027	70 mins Every 10 minutes. One person at the time.
Rooftop Stefan Kaegi	1st show from 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm 2nd show from 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm 3rd show from 9.00 pm - 10.00pm Please arrive 15 minutes before schedule time.	Everest House 46C, Jawaharlal Nehru Rd, Elgin, Kol - 71	60 mins

WE ARE THANKFUL TO

Participants

Sharanya Chattopadhyay, Kumar Chitrang, Dicky Banerjee
Sukanta Chatterjee, Madhusree Mukherjee, Sebanti Chatterjee
Sunayana Roy, Rituporna Sen, Patrik Ghosh, Mrinalini Vasudevan
Shakhyasingha Chakraborty, Abishek Das, Pia Köber, Banhishikha Mishra
Shahir Ahmed Khan, Basab Mullik and his crew, Gautam Sengupta
Dayal Chand Biswas, Rohan Ganguly & Manoj Menon

Performers

Bulbuli Ghosh, Probir Ghosh, Dipangshu Acharya, Sumitro Banerjee
Prodosh Bhattacharya, Uma Sarkar, Nilratan Sarkar
Susanta Karmakar, Debarun Datta, Anup Ghosh, Shubhendu Ari
Srimon Das, Kabir Asrful Chaudhuri, Raju Chori
Susanta Karmakar, Debarun Datta, Anup Ghosh, Shubhendu Ari, Srimon Das
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Artists

Stefan Kaegi, Lola Arias, Gerardo Naumann, Mariano Pensotti,
Ligna, Ole Frahm, Michael Hueners and Torsten Michaelson
Ant Hampton / Tim Etchells, Mikko Gaestel

HAU

Katja Timmerberg

The entire team of Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata

CIUDADES PARALELAS



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